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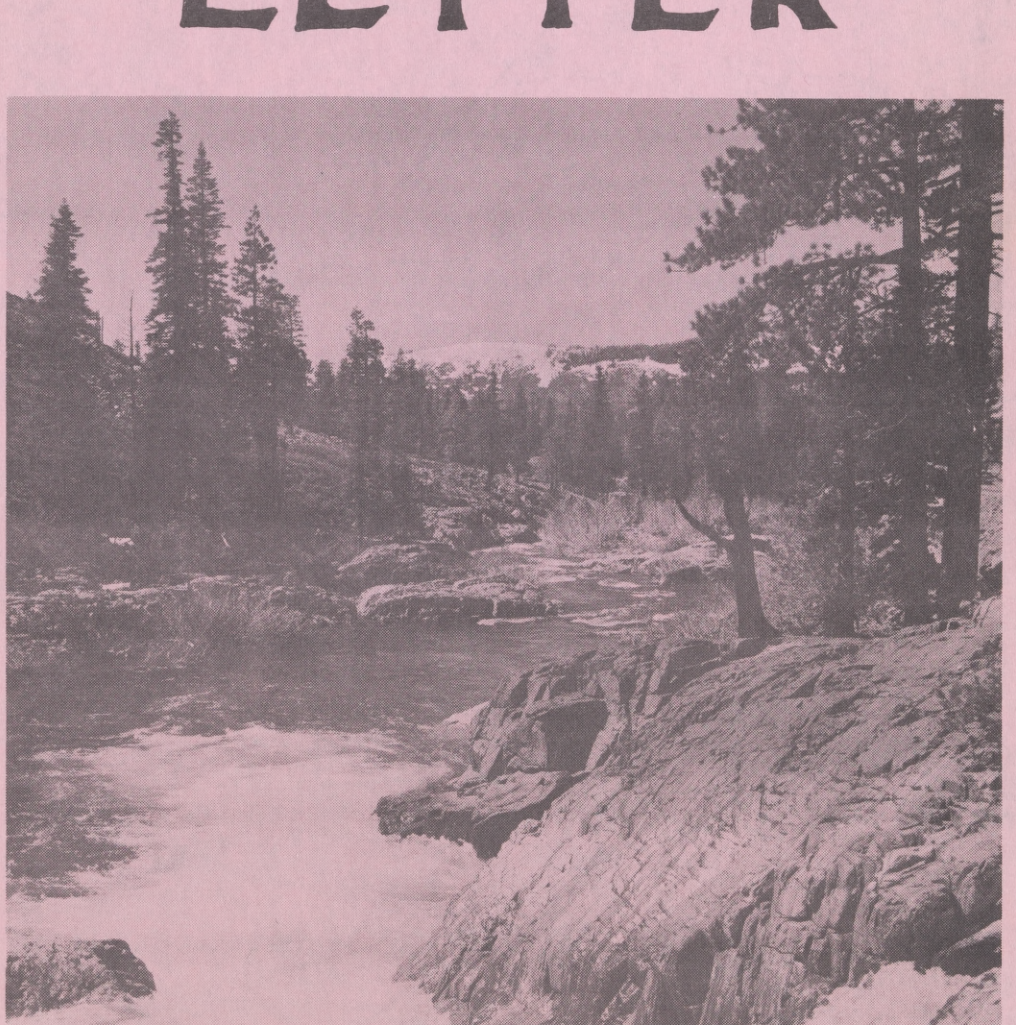
State of California

THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NEWS LETTER



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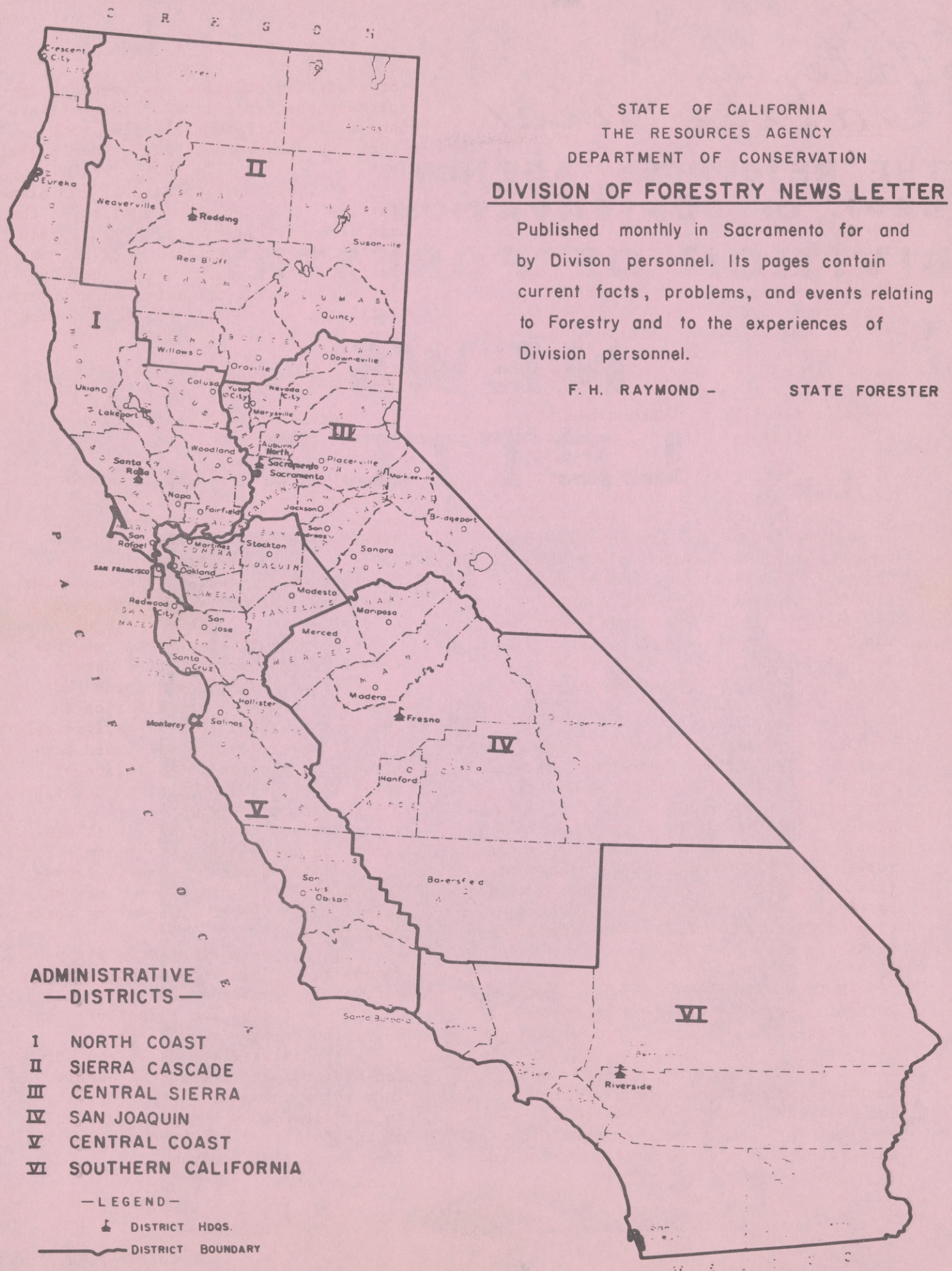

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Divison personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

F. H. RAYMOND – STATE FORESTER

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

FOREST FIRE RESEARCH

Jim Davis, Project Leader in Fire Control methods at the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station's Forest Fire Laboratory at Riverside, introduced to the Sacramento Fire Control staff, Mr. Lew Vargo, Operation's Research Analyst, who has been hired by the fire laboratory to work on Davis' staff. The Experiment Station's work in operation's research will be coordinated with that of work being done by the University of California School of Forestry under contract to the California Division of Forestry.

Bill Innes and Clint Phillips attended the American Meteorological Society meeting held in Reno. Many papers were presented during the four day conference on severe storms, cloud physics, and cloud modification. Although considerable research is being conducted in the field of controlling thunderstorms and lightning, no one has, as yet, produced a satisfactory method of preventing cloud to ground lightning of the type which starts forest fires.

Phillips met with several representatives of Lockhead Missiles and Space Company at Sunnyvale. The company was interested in learning about California Division of Forestry operations and exploring the possibility of extending their research results into various fields of fire detection and fire control. A similar meeting was held with a representative of North America Aircraft Corporation in Sacramento.

McKelvey and Phillips of the Fire Control Section, together with Burns of Fire Prevention, Bemiss of Forest Management, and Phibbs of District III, attended a four-day Data Communications Seminar conducted by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. The seminar emphasized the importance of planning a well-integrated data communications system and of acquiring adequate equipment to implement the system. The trainees were shown many different kinds of computers and data communications equipment.

Phillips of Fire Control and Blanford of Forest Management attended the annual Geigy Weed Control Clinic held at the El Dorado Hotel. This clinic reviewed the idenitifcation and physiology of weeds prevalent in northern California. Emphasis was placed upon permanent type herbicides.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Meetings attended on the above subject included:

1) A meeting with the Corps of Engineers and District IV personnel on the Fire Protection needs of the Hidden Reservoir Clearing Plan.

2) Met with the Agency Task Force on the review of planning needs on river basin and other watershed studies.

3) Met with Department of Conservation and Department of Water Resources personnel to resolve the need for forestry participation in the North Coastal Area Investigation.

4) Met with the watershed committee of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts on the Public Law 566 program.

5) Assisted the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in the presentation of the river basin program to representatives of the Department of Conservation and the Department of Water Resources.

6) Met with administrative personnel of the Division of Forestry on watershed planning needs.

7) Attended the State Soil Conservation commission meeting.

8) Assisted the Department of Conservation and the Fiscal Section in a review of reporting procedures to be carried out on the construction of the Escondido Creek Public Law 566 fire protection program.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Initiated correspondence on the review and/or planning of the following projects:

AB-1144 - Tehachapi
Antelope Valley
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Keweah River
Davis-Grunsky Act - Powsy Municipal Water District
State-Federal Cooperation

During the month of October, Greenbook inspections were concluded on the Toiyabe, Cleveland, Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. All positions, stations and lookouts were inspected except for the Running Springs Patrolman's position on the San Bernardino National Forest.

This officer accompanied Robert McBride of the U.S. Forest Service during the Forest Service CM-2 inspection of the Sonoma Ranger Unit. The Hilton, Cazadero, Occidental and Petaluma Forest Fire Stations were visited during the inspection.

An adjustment to the Klamath National Forest cooperative fire protection organization was consumated which should strengthen the initial attack forces provided for private lands plus providing a 3½ month fire prevention patrol position. A number one crew was added and placed at Grass Lake and the patrolman will be working from the Oak Knoll Station. This adjustment will be effective in the 1966-67 fiscal year.

State-County Cooperation

A representative of the State Forester's Office attended and/or participated in the following activities during October, 1965, which were of interest to the Division of Forestry pertinent to its rural and structural fire services program.

A meeting of the Colusa County Firemen's Association at Arbuckle.

A meeting of the Mendocino County Fireman's Association at Ukiah.

A meeting with representatives of the California Disaster Office at their Regional Office at Pasadena.

A tour of some of the facilities and review of some of the equipment in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties that is maintained and operated for those counties by the Division of Forestry.

A review of some plans at the California Disaster Office pertaining to the Division of Forestry's participation in Civil Defense functions.

Meteorology

Attended a two day conference on cloud physics and severe storms in Reno, Nevada. The conference was a national meeting of the American Meteorological Society with program arrangements by the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada. Also visited the recently activated fire weather office at Reno.

Assisted Mark Schroeder of the Riverside Forest Fire Laboratory in presenting a discussion of California's weather patterns to the annual meeting of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association in Soledad.

At the end of the month the radar repeater scope that was on loan from the U.S. Weather Bureau during the summer months in the Fire Control Office was removed to the Water Resources Flood Operations Center where it will be used until the end of the rainy season.

FOREST PRACTICE ACT

In accordance with wishes of the State Board of Forestry, the State Forester requested the Forest Practice Committees to review the need for amendment of the regulations in the

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

four districts. Since some revision is necessary to make the rules conform to the Forest Practice Act as recodified by the 1965 session, the opportunity presents itself to incorporate other needed changes. The last time these rules were amended by the Board of Forestry was in the 1959-61 period.

A plan submitted by the Brookings Plywood Company to seed and plant trees in Del Norte County instead of leaving seed trees as required by the Redwood Forest Practice Rules, was approved by the Board of Forestry at its meeting in Sonora on October 26, 1965.

REFORESTATION

The Reforestation Advisory Committee to the State Forester, composed of ten representatives of other private and public organizations, conducted a field trip in the Mt. Shasta area on October 14-15. The extensive progress of the U.S. Forest Service in reclaiming brush lands and planting trees was examined. The Committee also developed a proposed report of findings and recommendations for the State Forester. It describes the representation problem in California, summarizes progress to date, and points out additional steps to return idle lands to forest production.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

A pamphlet on the use of small dams to check erosion on brush lands being converted to grass cover was issued by the Division of Forestry. The work resulted from the range improvement field study the Division has operated for a number of years in San Luis Obispo County in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service and a local rancher.

On October 1, there was a meeting between Architecture, Finance, the Legislative Analyst's Office and ourselves on the funding of the Bautista and Ortega Youth Conservation Camps. The construction of the Bautista Camp has been delayed since there is a deficit of over $100,000. It was concluded that the plans are in accordance with past standards and, therefore, they would be submitted for approval to an emergency meeting of the Public Works Board on October 8, 1965.

The Ortega Camp, in Orange County, was some $350,000 short, but, again, it was determined that it was essentially a standard plan and incidental to Bautista, but there was an error in budgeting which created the deficit. Forestry agreed to do the site preparation work and, therefore, we will reduce the deficit by about $70,000.

On September 27, 28, and 29, Peterson, along with Tom Neil and Roy Perkins, met with officials from Washington on the administration of the Oak Glen Job Corps Conservation Center. There were a good many problems, which were resolved, involving availability of funds, purchasing procedures, logistics by the Job Corps in respect to clothing, etc. Officials from the Riverside County System were also in attendance and a long discussion was held on the new educational program. Agreement was reached in respect to notifying the camp on a temporary basis during the construction period.

On September 29, bids were opened for the expansion of the Oak Glen Job Corps Center with a low bid of $137,775. This was well under the $193,000 estimated by Architecture. J.B. Sooy Construction Company of Redlands submitted the low bid.

Nineteen new corpsmen arrived at Oak Glen during the week of September 27 to October 1, bringing the camp strength to 95.

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DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Fire season ended November 10, 1965, in the Humboldt and Mendocino Ranger Units, November 15, 1965, in the remaining Ranger Units of District I and in District II through V. District VI closed out their season on November 23, 1965.

STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATION

The existing Mutual Aid Agreement between the U.S. Air Force 776th Radar Squadron and the Mendocino Ranger Unit has been renewed and extended for an additional five years.

100 YEARS AGO - IN THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Two mammoth redwood planks are being shown in San Francisco which were sawed at Noyo River, up the coast. They are 7 feet 5 inches wide and 12 feet long and are free from sap and knots. In order to saw them, orders were sent to Sheffield, England, for a 12 foot sash saw, two feet larger than anything stocked in the United States.

FOREST PRACTICE ACT

The Forest Practice Committee of the North Sierra Pine Forest District met in Redding on November 16th to discuss amendment of the District rules necessitated by recodification of the Public Resources Code by the 1965 State Legislature and other changes in the rules that may be needed. The Committee decided that a review of the rules for their District was desirable. The Committee plans to meet this winter to study the matter further.

STATE FORESTS

Al Thrasher Lumber Company, Inc. of Calpella was awarded the sale of some 8,172,000 board feet of timber on Jackson State Forest when bids were opened in Fort Bragg on November 4th. The company submitted the highest bid with prices of $28.60 per thousand board feet for redwood, $36.00 for Douglas-fir and $6.50 for white fir, hemlock and Bishop pine. The sale revenue is expected to be $217,675. The sale involves the cutting and removal of timber on 568 acres in Hare Creek before the end of November, 1966. Removal of the old growth over-story will be beneficial and release younger timber for better growth.

PEST CONTROL

The California Forest Pest Control Action Council met in Sacramento on November 17th, to review pest conditions in 1965 and the status of research projects underway.

Aerial spraying and natural control factors ended the worst outbreak of Douglas-fir tussock moth ever recorded in California. Two new defoliating insects causing damage were reported this year: a needle miner attacking red fir was active in the Sierra National Forest and Yosemite National Park, and phantom hemlock looper defoliated Douglas-fir trees south of McCloud. Bark beetle activity increased from low population levels of 1964. Buildups of western pine beetle, the Douglas-fir beetle, and the mountain pine beetle were common. An increased volume of Jeffrey pine was killed by the Jeffrey pine beetle. Sawfly and midges continue to damage high value Christmas tree plantations.

Forest disease conditions did not change greatly in 1965. The new locations reported indicate better detection and reporting rather than spread. A continuing program of soil fumigation held seedling losses in the forest tree nurseries to a low level in 1965.

Animal damage to commerical conifers continues and is becoming more easily recognized although it is difficult to translate the findings of damage surveys into economic terms.

MIRAMONTE CAMP WINS ANNUAL DISTRICT AWARD

Miramonte Conservation Camp was awarded the annual Outstanding Unit Achievement trophy in recognition of widespread praise received for search and rescue work during 1965. Deputy Don Knowlton made the presentation award in special ceremonies during the annual District dinner-dance at Visalia on November 13. Accepting in behalf of Miramonte Camp was Assistant Ranger Lowell Rogers.

REDWOOD GROVE DEDICATED IN HONOR OF WILLIAM ROSECRANS

A scenic grove of giant Sierra redwoods (Sequoia gigantia) at Mountain Home State Forest has been dedicated in memory of the late William Rosecrans.

On December 2, the State Board of Forestry passed a resolution naming an old growth area of about two acres in size, adjacent to Hedrick's Pond, as the William Stark Rosecrans Grove. An identifying plaque in his memory and honor was ordered to be erected at the

site. In 1959 the Board had set aside this grove to honor their late chairman.

The redwood plaque bears the following inscription: "This grove of Sierra redwood was dedicated by the State Board of Forestry in honor of William S. Rosecrans for his outstanding service to conservation in California as Chairman of the Board from 1944 to 1958."

The Board's recent resolution paid tribute to the late Mr. Rosecrans for his outstanding leadership during a 14-year tenure as Chairman of the Board. He was praised for "devoting much time and effort to the developing of Forestry programs, encouraging and promoting all phases of the Division of Forestry's operations, including the acquisition of state forests, and in particular the Mountain Home tract in Tulare County known as the Mountain Home State Forest."

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COUNTY SUPERVISORS HONOR STATE EMPLOYEE

John W. Jackson, Assistant Ranger in Calaveras County was honored by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution, unanimously adopted by the five county supervisors, "congratulated and commended" Assistant State Forest Ranger Jackson for twenty-five years of outstanding service to the State of California and the people of Calaveras County during his twenty-five years with the California Division of Forestry.

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TULARE COUNTY SUPERVISORS STUDY FIRE PROBLEMS

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors acquired a first-hand picture of their mountain fire problems during a recent two-day inspection tour of foothill and forest areas. The trip was initiated by the Sequoia National Forest to help the Board adopt a stand on the proposed Tulare Plateau Wilderness Area.

Ranger Ray Banks managed to expand the tour to include visits to fire stations, observations of fire prevention and control problems and inspection of a rancher-conducted roadside sterilization program.

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EXPLODING JET RAINS FIRE

A Navy pilot who ejected safely from his burning jet fighter before it exploded in mid-air, joined firefighters in combatting the widespread fire ignited by flaming debris. The explosion and fire occurred at Woodlake in northeastern Tulare County.

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FIREMEN SHOW SKILL IN HELICOPTER CRASH

A Navy fire fighting record for dousing aircraft crash fires may be held by four Division of Forestry employees assigned to Mid-Valley Fire District. The team extinguished a fully engulfed million dollar jet helicopter using under 100 gallons of water and two 20-pound dry powder extinguishers, confining the fire damage to the airframe.

The men making the record were Associate Ranger Wayne King, Assistant Ranger Don Hurley and Foreman Larry Krogen and Bill Whicker.

A high ranking Navy officer at the scene reported he had never witnessed the saving of a copter so engulfed in fire during his long service career. The operation drew written praise from the Commanding Officer at Lemoore Naval Air Station who commended the firemen on their professional skill and spirit.

RANGER MORAN RECEIVES 25-YEAR AWARD

Madera Ranger Robert J. Moran was awarded his 25-year certificate and pin by Assistant Deputy Gervice Nash in an informal ceremony at a district-wide administrators meeting in Mariposa on October 19. A congratulatory letter from the State Forester was read by Deputy Don Knowlton.

Bob completed his 25 years on August 31. He started his career in May 1939, in San Bernardino County.

Bob "wintered" through his first season as a firefighter on a N.Y.A. project and advanced steadily to his present position as State Forest Ranger in charge of the Madera Ranger Unit. His career was interrupted by a two-year hitch in the Pacific Theatre with the Marine Corps.

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CHARLES J. KRAEBEL ELECTED A FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

Charles J. Kraebel, 76, of 79 Rock Lane, Berkeley, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

Kraebel, retired, has been active in forestry since 1911, including 29 years at the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, U.S. Forest Service, Berkeley. He was appointed senior silviculturist in 1927, served as chief of the Division of Forest Influences from 1934-1949, and as research forester until 1956.

Most of his Forest Service research was in causes and prevention of runoff and erosion in mountain watersheds. He conducted the first extensive field tests of seeding plants on burned over watersheds in California, a practice that is now standard emergency treatment.

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SAN JOAQUIN DISTRICT INSPECTS GIANT SPARK ARRESTERS

State law requires spark arresters in the exhaust flow from internal combustion engines operated on or near grass, grain or forest-covered land, etc. One of the inspections made necessary by this law turned up two spark arresters a little larger than most. One was eight feet long and had an inlet diameter of eighteen inches. The other was only four feet long with a twelve-inch inlet.

The reason for these giant spark arresters is a custom-made drag line clawing its way down the San Joaquin' Valley as it outdigs 4,500 men in the construction of the California Aqueduct.

The drag line, a 460 ton diesel electric powered monster, has two engines, one of which is a 1200 HP

quadruple overhead cam duel supercharged power plant reported to throw sparks like a Roman candle without its spark arrester. No statistics are available on either the horsepower or spark throwing capabilities of the smaller engine.

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WORLDWIDE FIRE PREVENTION

Herb Kantor, Beaumont District (Riverside County) Patrolman spreads his fire prevention messages around the world. To date they have gone to many states in the U.S.A., South and Central America, Denmark, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand.

At least once a month Herb gives a brief fire prevention talk to trainees at the Associated Heavy Equipment School at Miami, Riverside County and has arranged to have applicable fire law sections included in the students books. So far his programs have reached 1,100 equipment operators who have attended the school.

Local Division of Forestry officials report that Herb is to be congratulated for his fire prevention work through the school. It is also reported that while the fire prevention messages may be spread all over the world, quite a number of the recipiants will be working in California so that this State, too, will benefit from Herb's work.

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SANTA CRUZ SUPERVISORS HONOR LES GUM

Among the many honors received by Les Gum relative to his dedicated service to the State was a public expression by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

The Board, by unanimous resolution dated November 9, 1965, commended and congratulated "Ranger Les Gum upon completion of a useful work and retirement from a given public trust. The resolution further stated "records reveal the handiwork of Ranger Les Gum" in developing a mutual aid system for the fire fighting agencies in the County and indicates that retirement after 36 years is well deserved.

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PRESS COMMENDS FIRELINE INFORMATION OPERATIONS

California Division of Forestry personnel earned a letter of thanks from Ken Hudson of the Union-Tribune Publishing Company "for their efforts on behalf of the press on both the Grapevine and Suncrest fires." Dick Ernest, Fire Prevention Officer for District VI, was singled out by Mr. Hudson for special commendation. Ernest in turn mentions Ernie Balmforth (San Bernardino Ranger Unit) and Rex Griggs (District VI headquarters) as very important to the "adequate and efficient" press operation.

Hudson writes that he was provided in ten minutes what would have taken hours to gather. He further states that "a great amount of information . . . provided hasn't been published yet but will crop up from time to time."

In addition to his landitory remarks about press operations on the Grapevine and Suncrest fires, Mr. Hudson was complementary of Mr. Fenlon's Office on day-to-day routine press contacts.

DEPUTY STATE FORESTER C.W. FAIRBANK AWARDING 25-YEAR SERVICE PINS TO J.W. MILLER AND MILDRED H. PERYAM.

These pins were presented to Senior Stenographer Mildred Peryam and Ranger Miller during a luncheon meeting on October 7, 1965.

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OROVILLE DAM CLEARING PROJECT

Cut, pile and burn all trees and brush between contour levels 640' and 900' for a distance of 165 miles. Sound like a big job? It is, but just such a job is being presently under way in the Butte Ranger Unit near Oroville. The clearing is being done between what will be the minimum and maximum shoreline levels of the lake which will be impounded by the giant Oroville Dam.

The work is being done by C.J. Langenfelder and Sons, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, under contract with the Department of Water Resources. Although the Division of Forestry is not involved in the actual clearing project, they are involved in a very important part of it - namely, the fire prevention and fire suppression phase. Five full-time Fire Prevention Patrolmen are assigned to the project. Also assigned are a helicopter and a T.B.M. which are based at the Oroville Airport ready for immediate dispatch. Associate Ranger Ordean Monsen is in charge of prevention and suppression activities on the project.

The strip of ground being cleared around the reservoir perimeter contains 8,890 acres. In addition 10,000 trees within the reservoir site will be felled but not removed. Cut trees will be anchored to the stumps with galvanized chain to enhance the fish habatit in the lake. Still another 840 acres, which will become public beaches and boat launching areas, will not only be cleared but will have all stumps and roots grubbed out.

Although work on the clearing project is shut down on weekends, fire prevention is a seven-day job because of the fire potential in the area.

During the month of September the patrolmen made the following inspections: 260 tractors, 359 chain saws, 164 vehicles and 69 miscellaneous. 147 law violations were noted and corrected. Approximately 1,700 individual contacts were made. Since the clearing project started, 15 fires burned a total of 168 acres.

OROVILLE DAM CLEARING PROJECT

Clearing along main fork of the Feather River. Old Highway 40 Alternate and Western Pacific roadbed along the river.

Clearing work done on the Feather River South Fork. Line in center is the road to Feather Falls.

Associate Ranger Monsen standing on what will be a small island as he looks over the project.

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RAMSDEN HONORED AT RETIREMENT

On November 13, Harry Ramsden was honored at a party held in Visalia, celebrating his October 1 retirement as Automotive Maintenance Foreman. Harry had nearly 30 years of service with various State agencies, but most of the time was spent with the Division of Forestry. He was honored at his retirement party by several former employees representing the Division of Forestry on a Statewide basis. His many friends and former co-workers presented him with various gifts - among other things fishing equipment and fireplace accessories for a new fireplace that he is building in his home in Fresno.

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MODOC RANGER PASSES TWENTY-FIVE YEAR MARK

State Forest Ranger Norman F. Nicholson recently completed twenty-five years of service with the Division of Forestry. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a certificate and pin by Deputy State Forester George Grogan at a recent meeting in Redding. A personal message from State Forester Raymond was read at the ceremony.

Ranger Nicholson was born at Soquel, Santa Cruz County. He attended Soquel Grammer School, Santa Cruz High School and Lassen Junior College at Susanville.

He began his career with the Division of Forestry as a Forest Firefigher in the Tulare Ranger Unit. In May, 1940, he became an Assistant SFFTD and worked in both Tulare and Lassen Ranger Units. Many will remember that this position contained nearly as many letters in its title as there were dollars in the pay check.

He was promoted to the newly created position of Forest Fire Truck Driver in the Tulare Ranger Unit in August, 1941 and held this position until his promotion to

Assistant State Forest Ranger in May of 1942, in the same Ranger Unit.

In 1944, he answered his country's call and entered the U.S. Navy in September of that year. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations through February, 1946.

Upon his release from the Navy he returned to State service in his position of Assistant Ranger in the Tulare Ranger Unit. He served there until February, 1948, when he was promoted to the position of Associate State Forest Ranger and transferred to Coalinga in the Fresno Ranger Unit.

In October, 1950, he was recalled by the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean Theater of Operations through February, 1952.

Again returning to State service as Associate State Forest Ranger, he was assigned to the Mariposa Ranger Unit. He served there until he was transferred to the District IV office as Business Manager in March, 1957. His tour of duty as Business Manager was quite short, as he was promoted in December of that same year to his present position of State Forest Ranger in charge of the Lassen-Modoc Ranger Unit.

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PRESERVING PLANT SPECIMENS - A MERIT AWARD SUGGESTION

Junior Forester Steve Birge is $25 ahead for suggesting the use of saran wrap to protect plant specimen displays. His Merit Award Suggestion requires the use of acrylic resin aerosol spray, clear spar varnish, saran wrap and stiff botany paper. Here's the procedure: Obtain specimens and transport them in a plastic bag. Place specimens in a plant press--three days for delicate plants and five days for heavier specimens. Spray one side with acrylic spray. Immediately place it on a piece of botany paper, wet side down. Spray the exposed side so that the entire specimen is covered. When the acrylic resin spray has dried, paint the specimen with clear spar varnish. Immediately place a piece of saran wrap over the specimen to completely cover it. Smooth out the wrinkles. If edges of the plastic wrap extend over the botany paper, they may be folded over and glued down with varnish.

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SOUTH SIERRA DISTRICT FORESTER SPEAKS ON FORESTRY IN EUROPE

Forester Floyd Otter explained European forestry practices in an illustrated slide talk before 50 persons attending the San Joaquin Valley Conservation Forum in Fresno. Floyd studied several forests in different countries during a six-week tour of western Europe last spring.

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LIKE A SCENE FROM A WESTERN MOVIE

The Old West was relived again in Bloomington Fire District of San Bernardino County. FFI M. Cramer and FTD Russell were standing in front of Bloomington Fire Protection District Station #2 on October 18th at about 4:00 PM when their attention was attracted by screaming children. Down the road came a runaway horse pulling a four-wheel cart with four children aboard. Before the horse cart got to their location one of the children was thrown from the cart. Russell was able to get on the cart and control the horse just before it would have crossed a heavily trafficed main road.

The 10 year old child who was thrown from the cart required hospitalization. The other three, ages 11,5, and 4, thoroughly scared, were turned over to their parents.

Ranger Bawcom addresses the range meeting at Cal-Poly Little Theatre. He discussed the Ranchita Range Study.

Forester Fred Frank on the right discribes the Ranchita trial plots to Farm Advisor James Clawson, Left, and Ranchita Cattle Company Foreman Les Mankins.

Ranger Dulitz at the microphone and Superintendent Cummings (white jacket) present a program at the San Luis Obispo Grange Hall on the subject of fuelbreaks.

MUDDY BUT UNBOWED

District V personnel participated in a two-day meeting of range specialists and ranchers in San Luis Obispo in November. Months of planning by the District V Range Management Staff, San Luis Obispo Ranger Jim Dulitz Cuesta Superintendent Gene Cummings, and farm advisors of the Extension Service preceded this joint meeting of the American Society of Range Management, California Section, and the eleven county rancher

groups of the Central California Brush Range Improvement Association.

The program originally scheduled field tours of the 182-acre Ranchita Range Brushland Conversion Study Area and the Eagle Ranch Range Improvement Project. But heavy rains and mucky mud forced an all-night re-scheduling and speech writing session for indoor presentations at the Cal-Poly Little Theatre and San Luis Obispo Grange Hall.

Dick Bawcom, District V Camp Coordinator, formerly Range Management Forester; Fred Frank, present District V Range Management Forester; Jim Dulitz, Ranger San Luis Obispo; Gene Cummings, Superintendent Cuesta Conservation Camp; and Bud Wolfram, District IV Range Management Forester, made presentations on various aspects of the Ranchita Project, fuelbreaks, and range improvement associations. Specialists from the U.S. Forest Service, Extension Service, and ranchers discussed other range improvement subjects such as grazing, economics, re-vegetation, and wildlife management. Also attending were Assistant Deputy Blanford from Sacramento and Range Management Foresters Gunter (District I), Herrington (District II), and Davidson (District VI).

Because the subjects and topics discussed were considered to be of vital interest to cattlemen, ranchers, and rangeland owners, newspapermen from many parts of the state, range and cattle magazine editors, and central coast counties' radio and television stations covered the meeting.

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TO NEWSLETTER READERS:

Recently we received the following quoted letter from a homeowner located near Alpine, the scene of a nine acre brush fire on September 30, 1965.

"Dear Sir:

"The fact that our home was not consumed, in the recent Alpine fire on Arnold Way and Foss Road, is a tribute to the alertness and efficient operation of your organization.

"Although we met a few members of the Forestry Division we particularly want every man who was on the scene to know, if such is possible, how grateful we feel in appreciating their ceaseless efforts to control the fire until it was out.

"The solicitous concern about leaving the premises clean impressed and pleased us very much.

"With a great feeling of security and respect for the Division of Forestry and its dedicated men, we thank you with sincerity.

"Sincerely yours, S/Mr.& Mrs. Arnold J. Phillips, Alpine California."

Although we gratefully accept our share, we cannot accept all the praise for the Division of Forestry as this was a joint effort including the Alpine Fire District, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The reference to leaving the premises clean, also included some anxious moments during the fire. The Phillips residence, a large two story, wooden frame structure with well seasoned wood shingle siding was in the path of the fire. T.B.M. aircraft drops of Firetrol were being placed near the head of the fire and the Phillips residence received considerable amounts of "drift" on the roof and all four sides of the house. The next day the structure was hosed down to remove the fire retardant.

Needless to say, apparently success was achieved as indicated by our satisfied constituent.

SMOOTH CHANGE-OVER AT SANTA CRUZ RANGER UNIT

Greetings extended to Ranger Odgers by Deputy Sloat and Ranger Gum at the entrance of the Felton Headquarters.

Felton Headquarters was the scene of ceremonies welcoming recently promoted State Forest Ranger Jack Odgers to his new position as head of the Santa Cruz Ranger Unit. Jack was welcomed by Deputy Emery Sloat and Ranger Les Gum. Ranger Gum retired December 31, after having guided Santa Cruz for 24 years. Les and Jack worked together for a few weeks to insure a smooth change-over.

Jack was promoted to his new position from the Santa Clara Ranger Unit where he was the Associate

Talking it Over. Odgers, Gum, and Sloat discuss some of the pertinent facts to consider for the smooth change-over. Dispatcher Benny Miller is in the right background

Smile! Newsmen covering the ceremonies ask for "just one more picture." The event was given wide coverage by newspapers, radio, and television.

Ranger as well as Acting Ranger of Santa Clara for three months of the 1965 fire season. He is 37 years old and first went to work for the Division in 1944 as a Fire Fighter in Nevada City, progressing through the ranks to Foreman. He has been a trainee in District III, an Assistant Ranger in Fresno and Humboldt Units, and Associate Ranger Business Manager at District V Headquarters.

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LETTER TO STATE FORESTER FROM BOYS IN GHANA

The State Forester's Office, like many others, receives a number of unusual ideas, suggestions or requests in the normal course of events.

A letter which added warmth to an otherwise cold, dreary day was received recently from a 10 year-old boy in West Africa which reads:

"Hello Sir:

"It delight me more than anything else in the world to put you into writing today.

"I am Ghanaian boy with an age of ten years and is attending Biseasi United Elementary school. I have four brothers and two sisters of which I am the youngest and should like to make friendship with you.

"My hobbies and interests are collecting new cards, tabletennis and reading.

"I would be greatful if you will try your utmost, kind, and best to send me "Bible" to read.

"I was once walking along street then I came across some school boys being describing your address seriously. Due to describing I bought it costing $.25.

"I will happy if you do reply this letter. While terminating this letter I may ask Almighty God's blessing and long life to you all.

"I send all good wishes to you for happiness and success in you efforts.

"Sincerely, Nuakoh
Via Essiam Ghana"

A somewhat similar letter, probably from the boys who "sold" the State Forester to Nuakoh, signed by four boys, also requested Bibles.

Even before the State Forester got to see the letters three members of the Staff: Glenna Robinson in Management Services, Jim Taylor in Fire Prevention and Tom Honeycutt in the State Forester's Office, appreciating the sincerity with which these boys wrote to a total stranger, responded personnally with bibles.

The State Forester acknowledged the boys letters and included a brief description of the State of California which might also interest young boys in Ghana.

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KUDOS FOR CAMP CREWS

"Honorable Edmund G. Brown:

"I am writing this letter to express the gratitude which the residents of Capistrano Beach, of whom I happen to be one on a year-around, part-time basis, have for the splendid efforts of the Conservation Camp crews of the California Division of Forestry, in ameliorating the destruction and damage caused by the recent severe wave action which occurred in that area.

"The behavior of the men was exemplary, and to say that they worked like beavers under extremely adverse conditions, is putting it mildly. We are all deeply indebted to the State Forestry Service for the prompt aid which it rendered in a time of dire need.

"Respectfully and sincerely yours, S/ Pierce Works"

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LES GUM RETIRES

Having served the Division of Forestry for 34 years, Les Gum retired December 31, 1965, as Ranger of the Santa Cruz Ranger Unit. Les became Ranger of Santa Cruz in 1939 and has since achieved many goals as head of this unit because of his consideration for the public's safety from fire.

In 1947 as a member of the Santa Cruz County Safety Council, he laid the foundation for the Santa Cruz Firemen's Association. The Association became a reality in 1948, creating among other things a mutual aid pact of all the fire departments in the county. He was elected the first president in 1948, and has held that post all these years. He formed three Civil Defense fire teams composed of volunteers from throughout the county trained by the Division of Forestry and financed by the county.

When Les first arrived in Felton, there were only two fire stations, and ten employees. The unit has kept pace with the needs and has grown to six fire stations and two lookouts with 30 permanent employees.

Les was born in Auburn, California, in 1903. In 1925 he became an assistant ranger for the U.S. Forest Service, and in 1931, he successfully passed the State Forest Ranger examination and was appointed to the Lake Ranger Unit. He also served as Ranger in charge of the Butte, Tehama, and Shasta Ranger Units before coming to Santa Crua.

Les and his wife Lucille have no definite plans for the future other than to remain in their beautiful home in the city of Santa Cruz and just take it easy for a while. Their son, Jim, is a Sea Bee in Guam; and their daughter, Gaytrell, lives in Sacramento with her husband, Ranger Bob Ford.

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FORESTRY PROBLEMS

Forest Practice Inspectors work with both modern and old-fashioned methods of locating property in their effort to protect the public interest.

The item below was submitted by a (blank) from District (blank). All names and locations were changed or omitted to protect the innocent.

County:(Blank) Approx. Acreage: 500

"The old John Doe Ranch. Located on Doe Ridge. Pat. in 1862 by my grandfather John C. Doe. I still have Patent in my possession. He built a saw mill on this property in 1862 and did not have to go through all this red tape to cut timber. Thank you."
S/ John A. Doe, Landowner.

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A NON-PROFESSIONAL VIEWPOINT--JIM MCVICAR WRITING FOR THE SAN DIEGO UNION SAYS:

"Everyone Wants to Help Fight Fires

"Ever heard of starting a fire to stop one?

Professional firefighters do it all the time when they're on the lines in forests and brush country and they did it recently as they battled 1,200 acres of stubbornly burning sage and mesquite in the rolling hills above El Cajon.

"A few houses burned to the ground along Mountain View Road in a little community called Crest, but many more were saved by firefighters and residents who used shovels, pitchforks, and garden hoses.

"And then the firemen, many of them from the State Division of Forestry, set what they called a backfire.

"What they were trying to do - and succeeded in doing - was to burn one place to protect another, a hard-hatted fireman said.

"If we don't burn this area," the fireman explained, "the main blaze could jump over here and cause more damage.

"The forestry men also brought bulldozers and they crisscrossed the hills creating firebreaks, wide swaths that the fire won't jump - the firemen hoped.

"They worked all night, these forestry men, and don't complain a bit. All they ask is coffee and a few bologna and cheese sandwiches, which the Red Cross and volunteers are always pleased to provide and don't think the Crest folks didn't appreciate it."

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